

IN THE CLAIMS:

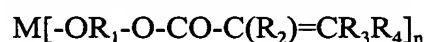
Please cancel claims 25-40 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

LISTING OF CURRENT CLAIMS

1-10 (Canceled).

11. (New) A method for providing organic/inorganic hybrid materials comprising:

A) hydrolyzing a metal aliphatic acryl alkoxide of the formula:



wherein:

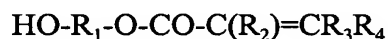
5 M is a metal element or mixture of metal elements,

R₁ is an alkyl group,

R₂, R₃, and R₄ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl, and

n is a number in the range of from 1 to 12,

10 to form *in situ* a nanosized oxide of the metal(s), M, uniformly dispersed in a matrix comprising an acrylate monomer of the formula:



wherein:

R₁, R₂, R₃, and R₄ are as defined above; and

15 B) curing the product of step A) in the presence of a free radical polymerization initiator.

12. (New) The method of claim 11 wherein M is a non-toxic metal and has an atomic number greater than that of silicon.
13. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein M is selected from the group consisting of titanium, bismuth, and mixtures thereof.
14. (New) The method of claim 11 wherein R₁ is alkyl of from 1 to 12 carbon atoms.
15. (New) The method of claim 14 wherein R₁ is a straight chain alkyl group.
16. (New) The method of claim 11 wherein R₂, R₃, and R₄ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, straight chain alkyl groups, and branched chain alkyl groups.
17. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein R₂ is methyl.
18. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein R₃ and R₄ are hydrogen.
19. (New) The method of claim 11 wherein the hydrolysis is catalyzed by an inorganic or organic acid.
20. (New) The method of claim 11 wherein the hydrolysis is catalyzed by an inorganic or organic base.
21. (New) The method of claim 11 wherein the free radical polymerization initiator is a photoinitiator.
22. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the photoinitiator is 2,2-dimethoxy-2-phenyl acetophenone.

Application No. 10/058,324

23. (New) The method of claim 11 wherein the free radical polymerization initiator is a thermal initiator.

24. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein the thermal initiator is 2,2'-azobis(isobutyronitrile).

25-40. (Canceled)